walls and defetcs pertaining to seepage, slopes in wet areas, grinding of floors, flush door shutters, general finish etc. are sometimes reported and attended to.

**Programme for rural drinking water supply**

1705. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new Scheme has formulated or a coordinating machinery has been set up to improve the performance and cost effectiveness of the on going programmes in the field of rural drinking water supply on a long term basis and;

(b) if so what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government has recently approved a Technology Mission on Drinking Water in villages and Related Water Management'.

The Objective of the Technology Mission will be to improve the performance and cost effectivness of the on-going programmes in the field of rural drinking water supply so as to ensure the sustained availability of adequate quantity of drinking water of acceptable quality on a long term basis This will be done by providing low cost but practical and effective solutions to identified problems associated with the supply of safe drinking water in rural areas, through the application of all available scientific and technological inputs from various national laboratories and scientific organisation and by promoting better water management.

During the Seventh Plan period, the Mission proposes to take up pilot projects in 50 districts in the country to deal with specific problems such as brackishness, salinity, turbidity, scarcity, presence of excess iron, flouride and other toxic elements contamination by pathogenic organism problems of arid, semi-arid drought prone and hill areas etc. The aim is to develop an integrated and inter-disciplinary approach which can be replicated in other areas. The Mission would also promote related water management through augmentation of existing ground water sources with the help of micro-level ecological planning involving afforestation, soil and moisture conservation and also by adopting the technique of artificial recharge in areas where ground water has been depleted and by tapping the surface flow through water shed management. The concept of water budgeting for conjunctive use of water resources would be introduced and long range measures formulated for preventing indiscriminate uses of water.

**Food in East and West Godavari districts in Andhra Pradesh**

1706. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total loss of life and cattle heads and damage to property due to the recent unprecedented floods in East and West Godavari districts in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the amount of Central assistance sought by the Andhra Pradesh Government and the amount of Central assistance given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The details of damage caused by the recent floods in Andhra Pradesh including the districts of east and West Godavari are as under:—

| | |
|---|---|
| (ii) Human lives lost | 326 |
| (ii) Cattle heads lost | 17,388 |
| (iii) Estimated value of damage of property | Rs. 1686.74 cr. |

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh had sought assistance amounting to Rs. 1226.50 crores for relief, rehabilitation restoration of public properties and improvement|upgrading of existing standards of flood bank|protective embankments etc. A ceiling of expenditure of Rs 132.37 crores has been approved.

**Consensus on the reservation for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes**

1707. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are taking any steps to arrive at a national consensus on the issue of reservations for Scheduled Castes|Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes; and

(b) if so what are the details thereof and the progress made so far in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to review the Central Government's policy in regard to reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. However, in regard to reservations for Other Backward Classes the Government is of the view that the *status quo* should be maintained till a national consensus is evolved on the issue Detailed factual information on various aspects of reservations for other Backward Classes obtaining in all the States and Union Territories had been called for and the same have been received and compiled for further examination.

**Body to identify strategic minerals**

1708. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestion for the setting up of a separate body to identify strategic minerals;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what steps Government propose to take to identify the mineral deposits in the country more speedily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A Sub-Committee of the Central Geological Programming Board of Geological Survey of India has been constituted to review, monitor and assign priorities for strategic mineral investigations/exploration. This includes members from GSI and all other National and State level Organisations dealing with exploration, exploitation, beneficiation and related problems of various strategic minerals.

**Drinking water supply during strike period by C.P.W.D. workers**

1709. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had put on duty some senior officers of the C.P.W.D. on 3rd September, 1986 to ensure that the supply of drinking water to the residents of Delhi was not disturbed by the striking C.P.W.D. workers on that day;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons that a number of residential colonies could not get drinking water at all on that day?